

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

/091 W

-----230034Z 063359 /15

R 211625Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3077

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4022

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, RO, IR, PO, YO, HU

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST DIPLOMATIC LINKS

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS(MFA) OFFICIAL, EMBASSY OFFICER INQUIRED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT ON LONG-HEARD PLANS OF IVORY COAST TO OPEN A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN EASTERN EUROPE. SOURCE REPLIED THAT MINISTRY HAS RECOMMENDED OPENING OF MISSION IN BUCHAREST WITH IVORIAN AMBASSADOR TO BE ACCREDITED FROM THERE TO OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE SAID DECISION ON TIMING WAS IN HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT BUT THAT INTEREST WAS HEIGHTENED BY RECENT VISIT TO IVORY COAST OF ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. HE ADDED THAT IN THE WAKE OF THE CEAUSESCU VISIT "CERTAIN OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES" HAD RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF OPENING RESIDENT MISSIONS IN ABIDJAN. AT PRESENT  
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ROMANIA AND POLAND ARE THE ONLY BLOC COUNTRIES TO HAVE RESIDENT EMBASSIES IN IVORY COAST. THERE WAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS A HUNGARIAN TRADE OFFICE BUT THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE DEPARTED SOME MONTHS AGO AND INDICATIONS ARE HE IS UNLIKELY TO BE REPLACED.

2. EMBOFF INQUIRED IF SOURCE SAW ANY POSSIBILITY OF

IVORY COAST RESUMING RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION OR ESTABLISHING TIES WITH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. MFA OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT WHILE A MATTER SUCH AS THIS WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT HE PERSONALLY SAW NO LIKELIHOOD WHATSOEVER OF THIS HAPPENING IN NEAR FUTURE, ADDING THAT IVORY COAST'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE SOVIET UNION REMAINED PROFOUND.

3. TURNING TO OTHER AREAS, SOURCE INDICATED IVORY COAST PLANS OPEN EMBASSY IN LISBON AND IS ALSO CONSIDERING ONE IN TEHRAN IF FORTHCOMING VISIT OF HOUPHOUET TO IRAN GOES WELL. HE ADDED IVORY COAST PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON HOUPHOUET VISIT AND HOPES IT WILL OPEN DOORS TO INCREASED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. STEARNS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009